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April 8, 2003

George Radanovich Chairman

Subcommittee on National Parks

Recreation and Public Lands

Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure to be here today in order to testify before you regards to H.R. 1113. As a Vestry member of Christ Church, Federica, it has been my task to assist our church in trying to obtain a land exchange between Fort Federica and the church that would benefit both parties. I sincerely believe we have accomplished this with the legislation now before you. This effort was started some several years ago, but with the assistance of Congressman Kingston that he and I started in March of 2002 we have arrived at a solution with H.R. 1113 when the acreage states is amended to read 6.0 acres not 4.8 acres.

Christ Church has agreed with Sea Island Company of Sea Island, Georgia to exchange approximately 23.124 acres of land that belong to Christ Church for 8.69 acres of land Sea Island owns, that is noted as the Oglethorpe site. We now want to exchange the General Oglethorpe site of 8.69 acres designated by Shupe Surveying Co., PPC dated 9/19/00 for 6.0 acres of land Ft. Federica, as designated by Shupe Surveying Co. dated 12/20/99. The land we exchange to Sea Island will be useable for them, whereas the land we receive from Sea Island would not be because of its historical value.

Christ Church has doubled in size in the last 9 years and the additional land is needed for its expansion. The 6.0 acres that is adjacent to Christ Church owned by Ft. Federica National Monument does not detract from the National Monument, and is a perfect site of the church, but in addition the 8.69 acres that Fort Federica National Monument will acquire is not only larger, but is a historical site that is contiguous to the monument and is no doubt of great value.

James Oglethorpe as many have stated, briefly occupied this 8.69 acre area as his homestead. Preservation of such sites, as they are non-renewable resources, should be protected by the Park Service from damage and destruction and also preserved for future scientists and the public. The Oglethorpe site was on the around 300 acres with probably on 50 acres of high ground and the balance of the marsh. This site has great scientific potential and deserves to be protected and nominated for inclusion in the National Record of Historic Places. Deeding it to the federal government should reduce public access and damage to the site.

Thank you for your time and attention to this testimony Mr. Chairman.